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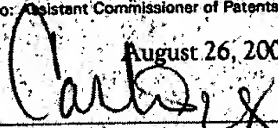
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SEP 10 2002

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Patent Docket P2548P1C12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| In re Application of: | Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned   |
| Kevin P. Baker et al. | Examiner: Not yet assigned   |
| Serial No.: 09/944862 | <b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b><br>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on<br>August 26, 2002.<br><br>Yvonne Carter |
| Filed: 8/31/2001      |  |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

**In the specification:**

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 2:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

CI This application is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/866028 filed 5/25/2001, which is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, PCT Application PCT/US99/28301 filed 12/1/1999, which is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/254311 filed 3/3/1999, now abandoned, which is the National Stage filed under 35 USC §371 of PCT Application PCT/US98/25108 filed 12/1/1998, which claims priority under 35 USC §119 to US Provisional Application 60/075945 filed 2/25/1998.